

31. The open interoperable apparatus in accordance with claim 30, further comprising:

a first network interface for communicating with a first network having a communication protocol stack;

a device access agent which emulates mapping of an access sublayer of at least one legacy format service message of said distributed control system to a network format message compatible with said communication protocol stack; and

a system management kernel local interface through which said device access agent communicates with said system management kernel

32. An apparatus in a distributed control system, comprising:

a first network interface for communicating with a first network having a communication protocol stack; and

a device access agent that maps an access sublayer of at least one legacy format service message of said distributed control system to a network format message compatible with said communication protocol stack.--

REMARKS:

Claims 1-15 and 18-29 remain pending. Claims 30-32 are added. Claims 30-32 claim subject matter to which the applicants are entitled. These claims are fully supported by the specification. A Version with Markings to Show Changes Made and a Clean Copy of Pending Claims are enclosed.